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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,698	06/12/2001	Srinivas Gutta	701613	3765

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EXAMINER

LAI, ANNE VIET NGA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2636

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/879,698

Applicant(s)

GUTTA ET AL.

Examiner

Anne V. Lai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over

Schofield [US.2003/0122930].

Regarding claim 1, **Schofield** (abstract and paragraphs [0094], [0100]) discloses a system for detecting an approaching vehicle including emergency vehicle from a (secondary) vehicle comprising: at least a video camera, a display device mounted on the (secondary) vehicle, and a motorized control means to manipulate the camera (pivot, move upward, downward and zoom) to provide enhance view of the viewing image on the display. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made that as all vehicles approaching the secondary vehicle are detected, emergency/law enforcement vehicles would be included.

Regarding claim 2, **Schofield** discloses the motorized control means is connected to the camera.

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3. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Schofield** in view of **Lee** [US.5,680,123]

Regarding claim 3, **Schofield** discloses the at least one camera comprises side view and rear view cameras, **Lee** teaches the use of a plurality of video cameras mounted on various location of a vehicle including a camera to cover the front view (col. 6, line 6) to monitor approaching vehicles.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made that a plurality of cameras could be mounted at locations of convenient in the secondary vehicle to detect approaching vehicles or particularly emergency vehicles.

Regarding claims 4, 5 and 6, **Lee** teaches (col.5, line 62 through col. 6, line 6) a display touch screen and on screen menu to provide selection of different viewing modes and functions; the views of two cameras may be displayed together on the display; and the zoom function of the camera is controlled to provide an enhanced view of the portion touched.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Schofield** and **Lee** in view of **Strumolo** [US.6,535,242].

Regarding claim 3, **Schofield** and **Lee** system do not have voice recognition control for cameras. **Strumolo** (col. 3, line 50 through col. 4, line 28) suggests a system adapted to use within a vehicle comprising a controller 14 having voice recognition software receiving voice command to operate a pair of cameras (col. 4, lines 4-7).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the suggestion of **Strumolo** to control the movement of the cameras using speech recognition for the convenient purpose.

5. Claims 8, 10-14, and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Schofield** in view of **Kakinami** [5,892,855] and further in view **Breed** [US.2002/0005778]

Regarding claims 8, 10, 14, 16-18, **Schofield** ([0094], [0100]) discloses detecting and identifying an emergency vehicle using cameras and controlling the cameras movement to provide enhanced view of displayed images, **Kakinami** (abstract and claims) teaches detecting and tracking a particular vehicle by controlling the pan, tilt zoom motors of the cameras, and **Breed** ([0057], [0081], [0095], [0096]) suggests detecting, classifying and identifying a vehicle on the display as an emergency vehicle (fire engine) using pattern recognition.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teaching of **Schofield**, **Kakinami** and **Breed** to provide to the secondary vehicle means to detect, classify and identify an approaching vehicle as an emergency vehicle, tracking the approaching vehicle by controlling the pan, tilt, zoom of the cameras. Since the approaching vehicle is being identified, it would be obvious that the user can select the control function to track the vehicle of his preference.

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Regarding claims 11-13 and 19-21, **Breed** ([0095], fig. 16) suggests audio-visual warning to the user of the secondary vehicle that at least one emergency vehicle has been identified in the video image data.

6. Claims 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Schofield**, **Kakinami** and **Breed** in view of **Lee**.

Regarding claims 9 and 15, **Breed** ([0095]) provides an icon for each identified vehicle on the display and **Lee** provides a touch screen display for the user to select different viewing modes and functions.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to set up a display function using icon indicating a particular vehicle to be tracked and the user can control the display and tracking of the vehicle by touching the icon.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Garcia discloses an alarm system responding to presence of an emergency vehicle. [US.2001/0038344]

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Salazar discloses a real-time reconfigurable adaptive speech recognition command and control apparatus and method. [US.5,774,841]

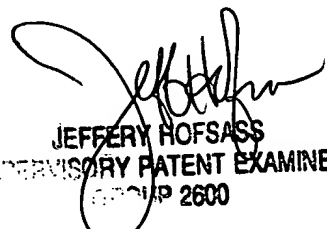
Oliver discloses a voice control input for portable capture devices.
[6,289,140]

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne V. Lai whose telephone number is 703-305-7925. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hofsass Jeffery can be reached on 703-305-4717. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4800.


A. V. Lai
December 24, 2003


JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2600